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25 JUL 1966

MEMO FOR: Mr. Bannerman

SUBJECT : Restricting "Housing" Notices on Agency Bulletin Boards to  
"Open Housing"

1. This memorandum is for information in response to your request.

25X1 2. At a meeting on 6 June 1966 of officials of the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing and personnel officials of agencies having "suburban" installations, [ ] learned that a number of agencies have adopted the practice of prohibiting the use of their bulletin boards for housing sale or rental notices to "open" (non-segregated) housing. It was noted, incidentally, that introduction of this practice had resulted in some "bare" bulletin boards. (The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what Government agencies and their employees might do toward "Equal Opportunity in Housing." The meeting was not intended to, and did not, result in conclusions or recommendations as to any course of action. You may recall that [ ] gave you on an oral report on it when he returned. His memorandum for the record is attached. This memorandum was brought to the attention of the Agency's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.)

25X1 3. When Mr. Echols returned from his TDY in the Far East, he considered the question of immediately recommending a similar restriction on the use of Agency bulletin boards and decided against doing so at that time for two principal reasons:

a. The use of Agency bulletin boards as a "Housing Exchange" is a particularly important employee service for an agency with a rotating population. If the experience reported by other agencies, i.e. "bare bulletin boards," were to result from adopting such a rule in the Agency, we might be denying our employees an important service without, we believe, making any significant contribution to the objectives of the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing.

b. Such a policy should be considered in the context of the Agency's total "Equal Employment Opportunity" program which is now being formulated.

4. As you know, on 20 July, Commander Moran requested advice concerning how he should respond to an inquiry from a Mrs. Rosner of the Maryland Suburban Fair Housing Office. Mrs. Rosner had reported a complaint to Commander Moran from a negro employee who indicated that he had been told "not to waste his time" when he called another Agency employee about a "house for rent" notice on an Agency bulletin board. Mrs. Rosner wanted to know if the Agency had a rule restricting use of its bulletin boards to "open housing."

25X1 5. [ ] and I discussed Mrs. Rosner's inquiry with [ ] who in turn discussed it with Mr. Earman and Colonel White. (I believe that Colonel White may also have discussed it with Mr. Helms.) [ ] later called me and told me to inform Commander Moran to call Colonel White for instructions ~~now~~ on his response. In Commander Moran's absence, I relayed

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this instruction on 21 July to [ ] I called [ ] later in the day to find out what the Agency's reply was to be. He told me that he was to call Mrs. Rosner, advise her that this was the first such incident in our experience, that we draw no color lines, and that we would like to have the names of the employees involved so that we could "get to the bottom of the matter" ourselves.

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6. [ ] tells me that Colonel White plans a luncheon meeting with Nicholas Oganovic, Executive Director of the Civil Service Commission, later this week to discuss our Equal Employment Opportunity program. This meeting was prompted by a requirement to submit our EEO "plan of action" for Commission review.

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